

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Amir N. Penn on 01 July 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled.

In claim 3, the recitation in lines 53-54 of "said second sleeve movable independently, at least partly, from said first sleeve" has been replaced by --said second sleeve in operation movable independently in relation to said first sleeve--.

In claim 6, line 1, the term "anyone" has been replaced by the phrase --any one--.

In claim 8, the recitation in lines 53-54 of "said second sleeve movable independently, at least partly, from said first sleeve" has been replaced by --said second sleeve in operation movable independently in relation to said first sleeve--.

The status identifier of claims 12 and 13 has been changed to --(Cancelled)--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Allowability of claims 3 and 8 is based upon all of the structure of the combination of socket and plug being present, including structure required to meet the recited functionality, as recited in claims 3 and 8.

Specifically, Applicants arguments starting in page 8, line 6, of the reply filed 06/19/2008 concerning the two sleeves as taught by Wayne (U.S. 5,323,812) are persuasive and Wayne fails to teach a two piece sleeve structure such as to meet the claim limitations of “said second sleeve in operation movable independently in relation to said first sleeve” as recited in claims 3 and 8, lines 53-54 in both claims. As such, it would be improper hindsight to modify the invention of the prior art of Meeske (EP 0 351 438 A1), in view of the prior art of Mullins (U.S. 5,255,714) or any prior art of record, such that a second sleeve in operation be movable independently in relation to a first sleeve.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAY R. RIPLEY whose telephone number is (571)272-7535. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 1:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jay R Ripley/
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
02 July 2008

/James M Hewitt/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679